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Flathead Lake Biological Station Researcher Receives Award

December 29, 2016

MISSOULA – University of Montana Assistant Research Professor Shawn Devlin recently received a national award for a paper he co-wrote on how methane emission from lakes can be manipulated by altering the food web.

Devlin conducts aquatic ecology research at UM's Flathead Lake Biological Station. He is the recipient of the Raymond L. Lindeman Award, which honors one young scientist each year for an outstanding, peer-reviewed paper in the aquatic sciences. The award is given by the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography. Devlin will receive his award at the annual Aquatic Sciences Meeting in Hawaii in February.

The paper, "Top consumer abundance influences lake methane efflux," was published in the journal Nature Communications in 2015. Find it online at <http://www.nature.com/articles/ncomms9787>.

Flathead Lake Biological Station Director Emeritus Jack Stanford nominated the paper for the Lindeman Award.

"I expect this innovative paper to be highly cited in the coming years, given its unique combination of whole-ecosystem experimentation, microbial ecology and biogeochemistry as well as its important implications for the role

of lakes in global methane and carbon cycling and thus to climate change,” Stanford wrote in his nomination.

###

Contact: Shawn Devlin, assistant research professor, UM Flathead Lake Biological Station, 406-982-3301, shawn.devlin@umontana.edu.



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Tickets Available for 'An Evening with Garrison Keillor' April 4 at UM

December 20, 2016

MISSOULA – Author, storyteller, humorist and radio personality Garrison Keillor – best known as the creator and host of “Prairie Home Companion” – will present an evening of live entertainment at the University of Montana’s Dennison Theatre on Tuesday, April 4.

Dennison Theatre Productions and UM Productions will host “An Evening with Garrison Keillor” at 7:30 p.m., with a book signing to follow at 9 p.m. Tickets available at all GrizTix locations, including online at <http://www.umt.edu/griztix/> and at the Adams Center Box Office. Tickets also may be purchased by calling 406-243-4051 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Keillor last appeared in Missoula at the Dennison Theatre in March 2016.

For more information call Tom Webster, Dennison Theatre director, at 406-243-2853 or email thomas.webster@umontana.edu.



###

Contact: Tom Webster, director, UM Dennison Theatre, 406-243-2853, thomas.webster@umontana.edu.



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UM Programs Support Local Families, Veterans This Holiday Season

December 19, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana brightened up the holiday season for more than 200 people in need this year with its 20th annual “Adopt-A-Family” program and its sixth annual “Adopt-A-Veteran” program.

Each year, interested members of the University community are paired with local families or veterans to ensure that every Missoula family is able to celebrate the holiday season.

This year, the spirit of generosity was overwhelming. UM provided food, gifts and other items for 41 families and 25 veterans, totaling 204 people. The Davidson Honors College hosted a holiday celebration and gift drop-off event for participants in the programs.

“The Office for Civic Engagement would like to extend a heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all those members of the UM community who participated in the Adopt-A-Family and Adopt-A-Veteran programs,” said Holter Bailey, volunteer and event coordinator for the UM Office for Civic Engagement. “Your efforts have truly made a difference in the lives of hundreds of Missoula residents during this past holiday season.”

For more information about Adopt-A-Family, Adopt-A-Veteran or other programs offered by OCE, visit the office on the UM campus in Davidson Honors College Room 20.

###

Contact: Holter Bailey, volunteer and event coordinator, UM Office for Civic Engagement, 406-565-7010, hbcivicengagement@gmail.com.



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Model UN Participants Win Scholarships to UM

December 16, 2016

MISSOULA – Five high school seniors received \$1,000 scholarships to attend the University of Montana for their exemplary performance at the 51st annual Montana Model United Nations Conference on Nov. 21-22.

Entezar Arman and Natalie Jablonski from **Coeur d’Alene** Charter Academy, Jackson Petty from Missoula Sentinel High School, and Colin Norick and Annabel Conger from **Columbia Falls** High School were among the top five seniors.

Each student wrote an outstanding position paper and actively and accurately represented his or her country during two days of debate on world issues.

Other Top 20 Seniors included Kelli Rosenquist from Missoula Sentinel High School; Brendan Campbell, Silas Teasdale, Antigone Lambros, Emma Norton and Oscar Wecker from Missoula Hellgate High School; Kori Mooney, Sophia Skwarchuk and Isaak Winkelman from **Kalispell** Flathead High School; Clayton Covell from Columbia Falls High School; Trevor Griffin, Mikayla Oswald and Max McCormick from Coeur d’Alene Charter Academy; Maria Lovely from **Gallatin Gateway** Lone Peak High School; and Makkie Haller from **Whitefish** High School.

Schools also won awards at the conclusion of the conference. The 17 participating schools were divided into small and large delegations based on number of students attending the conference and judged on the overall preparedness, participation and excellence of their delegates.

The three school award categories include Outstanding School for the top 10 percent, Distinguished School for the top 20 percent and Honorable School for the top 30 percent.

The following small delegation schools won:

- Outstanding School: **Hamilton** Christian Academy, advised by Tanya Horat and Holly Shupert
- Distinguished School: Lone Peak High School, advised by Alanah Griffith
- Honorable School: Missoula Valley Christian, advised by Noelle DeCan

Large delegation winners:

- Outstanding School: Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy, advised by Robert Miles
- Distinguished School: Flathead High School, advised by Lauren Gustafson
- Honorable School: Columbia Falls High School, advised by Tara Norick and Jenny Lovering

The top 20 percent of the 96 teams representing countries and 350 students who attended the conference also received awards, as did UM students who planned and staffed the conference. A complete award listing is online at <http://hs.umt.edu/mun/hs-conference/awards-2016.php>.

For information on the conference, including topics, guest speakers and participating high schools, see the Delegate Handbook at <http://hs.umt.edu/mun/hs-conference/default.php>.

###

Contact: Karen Adams, associate professor, UM Department of Political Science, 406-243-2461, karen.adams@umontana.edu.



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Art of Diplomacy Conference Returns to UM

December 15, 2016

MISSOULA – World-class artists will join experts in culture, history and international relations for the second Art of Diplomacy Conference at the University of Montana on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 12-13.

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center and the Montana World Affairs Council will host the two-day event in conjunction with the 2017 Vienna International Ballet Experience (VIBE).

“The arts are transformational and build connections at all levels, including the personal, community and international,” said Abraham Kim, executive director at the Mansfield Center. “The Art of Diplomacy event will share stories about how performers and leaders are using the arts to do this around the world.”

The conference features two full evening events of dance, music and storytelling in the University Center Ballroom. The first evening is a limited-seating International Tasting Reception and Gala, which begins at 5:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12. Tickets must be purchased for this event. The second evening includes a free public symposium featuring discussions and art performances starting at 6:15 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13.

Both nights will focus on how the arts shape society and cross-cultural understanding, including fighting racism and poverty, promoting global education and connecting communities. More information and registration for the gala and the symposium are available online at <http://www.umt.edu/mansfield/events/art-of-diplomacy/default.php>. Registration is required for both events.

The Art of Diplomacy is co-sponsored by UM, S.G. Long and Company, Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre, VIBE and the Korea Foundation.

VIBE, a multiday competition and dance festival, brings students and young adult participants from the around the world to Missoula Jan. 10-14. It is co-hosted by VIBE and Montana's Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre under the direction of Charlene Campbell.

The Mansfield Center at UM promotes better understanding of Asia, U.S. relations with Asia and ethics in public affairs in the spirit of Sen. Mike Mansfield (1903-2001) and his wife and life partner, Maureen Hayes Mansfield. The center houses programs that focus on the peoples and cultures of modern Asia and ethics in public affairs – the core interests and hallmarks of Sen. Mansfield's career.

The Montana World Affairs Council, founded in 2000, enables Montanans to appreciate the relationship of foreign policy and international issues to their lives in the Rockies. The council offers opportunities to better understand world events through people-to-people diplomacy, distinguished speakers, overseas visits and educational outreach programs. As globalization reaches all corners of the Big Sky, the council seeks to help educate citizens about their increased political, economic and cultural integration into the world community.

For more information on the conference, call Caitlin Sager, Mansfield Center program coordinator, at 406-243-2965 or email caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu.

###

Contact: Caitlin Sager, program coordinator, UM Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, 406-243-2965, caitlin.sager@mso.umt.edu.



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UM Employees Donate \$96,000 to Local Nonprofits During Annual Fundraiser

December 15, 2016

MISSOULA – More than 300 University of Montana employees recently participated in the 2016-17 Charitable Giving Campaign by donating \$96,334 to local charitable organizations.

The annual campaign offers UM employees the opportunity to make donations to various local organizations through one-time gifts or payroll deductions. The agencies selected to participate in the campaign are closely evaluated to ensure that all donations go directly to local services. This year 12 local nonprofits and two statewide nonprofit federations participated in the campaign.

The total amount raised during the 2016-17 increased for the first time in two years with 330 employees donating an average of \$291.

“The increased campaign results served as heartwarming news for both the University and the community,” said 2016-17 Campaign Chair Beth Burman-Frazee. “For me, it’s proof that even during challenging times, UM employees will rally together to make great things happen.”

The fundraising effort that became UM's Charitable Giving Campaign began during the 1986-87 academic year when faculty and staff pledged \$25,000.

##

Contact: Beth Burman-Frazee, chair, UM Charitable Giving Campaign, 406-243-6721, beth.burman-frazee@umontana.edu.



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Students Awarded \$3,000 at UM Startup Pitch Competition

December 14, 2016

MISSOULA – Three students received awards at the EPIC Pitch Competition, hosted by the Blackstone LaunchPad at the University of Montana, the Montana Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs and UM School of Business Administration on Dec. 7 in the Gilkey Building.

Nine finalists pitched their rough business ideas with the hope of winning a portion of \$3,000. The diverse set of competitors included five women, two of whom are participants in UM's Pursue Your Passion program, designed to engage women in entrepreneurship.

Clare Weiler, a UM MBA student, won the overall competition and took home \$1,500 with her pitch for Bonsai. Bonsai makes homeownership more attainable and affordable by creating something akin to a condominium association with tiny homes, which Weiler and business partner Mark Trapenier quoted to be around \$380 per month. Bonsai will gain automatic entry into the larger statewide John Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge held annually at UM toward the end of spring semester.

Weiler also won the "Autumn Athena Award," given to the most dynamic woman who characterizes leadership,

drive, passion and accomplishment. She received an additional \$500 to go along with her first-place prize, for a total of \$2,000.

A \$500 award for “most exciting startup idea” went to Taylor Wyllie a, UM journalism and environmental studies student. Wyllie’s idea, FeatureMe, is a web-based store that offers consumers an innovative, unique gift – a personal story.

Winner of the “most compelling live presentation” went to Kassi Soelter, a UM psychology student. She presented her pitch for Crepe Cuisine, a food truck that offers delicious French crepes. The \$500 award brings her one step closer to her goal to buy a \$750 crepe maker.

Additional students who pitched ideas were Bryce Rowe, The Plastic Re-Shop; Natalie Boose, God Shot Espresso Bar; Mark Trepanier, Virtual Reality Learning Systems; Bridger Frandsen, StrappedIn; Bruce Tyler, Helena SkyHigh; and Josie Baretta, AuntKnow.

UM’s Blackstone LaunchPad introduces entrepreneurship as a viable career path and develops entrepreneurial skills and mindsets through individualized coaching, ideation and venture-creation support. Developed as part of the Blackstone Charitable Foundation’s Entrepreneurship Initiative, the program is available to over 350,000 students on 15 campuses throughout the country. More information about the Blackstone LaunchPad is available at <http://www.umt.edu/launchpad/>.

MADE, a program in UM’s School of Business Administration, promotes and projects the spirit of entrepreneurship to all UM students and Montana entrepreneurs through educational opportunities and special events. Membership comprises entrepreneurs and individuals who have experience working with and advising entrepreneurs, such as angel investors, bankers, attorneys and SoBA faculty. More information about MADE is available at <http://www.business.umt.edu/orgs/made/default.php>.

To view photos of the event, visit <http://bit.ly/2hu7a0f>.

###

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UM's Montana Geographic Alliance Receives Giant Traveling Map

December 14, 2016

MISSOULA – The Montana Geographic Alliance, housed in the University of Montana Department of Geography, recently received a new resource from the National Geographic Society to help promote geography education.

The new Montana State Giant Traveling Map is a 15-foot by 20-foot vinyl floor map designed to support interactive hands-on and feet-on learning experiences for third- and fourth-graders. Through the map, students learn about local geography while gaining skills in basic map reading and usage.



The Montana State Giant Traveling Map visited third- and fourth-graders at Sussex School in Missoula on Dec. 2. The students completed two lessons from the National Geographic Lesson Handbook, designed specifically to engage students and teachers with the giant map. Students worked together to learn more about geography, and Montana Geographic Alliance intern Rebecca Krantz said they seemed to have an exceptional amount of fun.

"It was so inspiring to see the excitement and pure joy expressed by the children when they witnessed the map for the first time," said Krantz, a UM graduate student. "They had never seen a map this large before, and I could tell that they were incredibly excited to begin their lessons. The map makes geography fun, and it provides students with experiences to help them learn map reading skills and spatial thinking and, of course, their state's geography."

Starting in January 2017, the Montana State Giant Traveling Map will tour the state. The map is scheduled to visit schools in **Butte, Livingston, Joliet, Billings, Richey, Judith Gap, Big Sandy, Valier, Fortine, Kalispell, Plains, Frenchtown** and more.

The Montana Geographic Alliance will collaborate with school districts and teachers to make this resource available to the far reaches of the state for the 2017-18 academic year. The Montana Geographic Alliance will accept requests and schedule school visits beginning June 1 2017.

Email the Montana Geographic Alliance directly at mga@umontana.edu or visit <http://www.umt.edu/mga/> for updates and information about other resources and opportunities.

###

Contact: Sarah Halvorson, professor, UM Department of Geography, 406-243-2793, sarah.halvorson@umontana.edu.



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Celtic Band Altan to Play UM's Dennison Theatre March 7

December 13, 2016

MISSOULA – Dennison Theatre Productions at the University of Montana and The Friends of Irish Studies will present an evening with legendary Celtic musicians Altan in concert at 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 7.

Tickets are on sale now at all GrizTix locations, by calling 1-888-MONTANA or online at <http://www.umt.edu/griztix/>. Tickets purchased in advance are \$28. Tickets purchased the day of the show cost \$30. There is a \$2 discount for students and for members of The Friends of Irish Studies.

No Irish traditional band in the past 30 years, except perhaps the Chieftains, has had a wider impact on audiences and music lovers throughout the world than Altan. The band continues to be one of the Celtic world's great treasures.

###

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UM Professor's Ceramics Featured at Missoula Art Museum

December 13, 2016

MISSOULA – A University of Montana ceramic professor's works of art are on display at the Missoula Art Museum's exhibit "Binary Form: Ceramic Abstraction by Trey Hill and Andrea Moon."

School of Art Professor Trey Hill, who has worked with clay the past 20 years, tends to emphasize the abstract or unknown in his sculptures, rather than mimicking literal objects.

"I try to build work that gives the viewer a few hints about the underlying meaning, but not so much that the story is laid out for them," Hill said. "I hope they take those pieces of narrative, but then also add and interpret it on their own."

The tree form entered Hill's work as he studied historical Greek and Roman figurative stone sculptures, many of which contain truncated trees that reach thigh-high on the figure.

"The trees are there to keep the figure standing so it doesn't break off at the ankles," Hill said. "Often, when we look at these sculptures we are so entranced by the figure that the element within the sculpture that is keeping it standing goes unnoticed. I think this is a good analogy for the way we see many things and what goes unnoticed."

The Missoula Art Museum curated a selection of Hill's work to showcase in "Binary Form." Seven pieces are on display as part of the exhibit.

Many of the exhibited sculptures are influenced by Hill's recent residencies in China, where he spent the past year on sabbatical. In July, he had a solo exhibition in Xian, China, featuring more than a dozen pieces, which he created while overseas. Hill built a couple of the selected pieces at the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, where he worked in the visiting artist studio this past spring.

He also creates work at his home studio in Missoula, as well as the ceramics studio at UM where he has taught since 2008. Hill said it's important for students to see their professors work so that they see the failures that come before the successes.

"Working toward an exhibition takes a tremendous amount of time in the studio, and the students see the work ethic it takes to see a show through to completion," Hill said.

"Binary Form" is on display at the Missoula Art Museum through May 13, 2017. The museum, which is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, is located in downtown Missoula at 335 N. Pattee St.

For more information on the exhibit, call Hill at 406-243-4181 or email trey.hill@umontana.edu.

###

Contact: Trey Hill, ceramics associate professor, UM School of Art, 406-243-4181, trey.hill@umontana.edu.





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UM's MBA Program Ranked No. 13 Among Top 50 Most Affordable

December 13, 2016

MISSOULA – TopManagementDegrees.com recently published its annual ranking of the top 50 most affordable Master of Business Administration programs, naming the University of Montana as No. 13 overall.

A growing online resource for information on management education, TopManagementDegrees.com specifically designs its business school rankings to help prospective students make smart investments in their education.

Tammy Cagle, editor for TopManagementDegrees.com, writes, "We are committed to connecting people to inspiring ideas and high quality educational opportunities. We are confident that students will find both at the University of Montana."

The ranking brings to light UM's flourishing MBA program, highlighting the School of Business Administration's "elite AACSB-International accreditation" and its extremely affordable base tuition cost. Students who are Montana residents can complete the MBA with base tuition costs under \$7,000.

The mission of the MBA program strives to develop effective global leaders and foster entrepreneurial innovation,

aligning well with the University's history of academic excellence. The curriculum requires 19-credit hours of core courses and 13-credit hours of electives. Students are encouraged to explore their unique interests and can expand their studies with certificates in either entrepreneurship or entertainment management

Students also can pursue joint degrees with other highly respected schools within the University, including the Alexander III Blewett School of Law, Skaggs School of Pharmacy or School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science.

MBA applicants are required to complete an online application and submit official Graduate Management Admission Test, or GMAT, scores. In some cases, applicants with extensive managerial work experience may be granted a waiver for the GMAT requirement.

For more information on UM's MBA program, visit <http://www.business.umt.edu/MBA> or email Dawn Hambrick, director of graduate operations, at dawn.hambrick@umontana.edu.

Contact: Dawn Hambrick, graduate program manager, UM School of Business Administration, 406-243-2064, dawn.hambrick@umontana.edu.



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Montana Journalism Review Releases Web Special on Standing Rock Media Coverage

December 13, 2016

MISSOULA – Montana Journalism Review, a University of Montana School of Journalism student-produced publication, released a special web report on Dec. 13 analyzing how the media covered the Standing Rock movement against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

The interactive website, titled “Framing a Movement: The Media at Standing Rock,” was built by a team of student journalists under the leadership of Senior Editor Kathleen Stone.

Stone, a senior majoring in journalism, oversaw three reporting trips to North Dakota and directed MJR reporters, photographers and multimedia specialists to focus on Native perspectives while capturing both traditional and activist media in action.

In September, UM journalism Assistant Professor Jason Begay, graduate students Matt Roberts and Lailani Upham and senior Olivia Vanni made the 12-hour trip from Missoula to spend time with local reporters from the Bismarck Tribune, news gatherers from national organizations such as Reuters and MSNBC, and social-media activists. The MJR team witnessed altercations between protesters, media and law enforcement and experienced firsthand the competing efforts to control the narrative.

As the semester and protests progressed, MJR sent reporters to the camps two more times, once at the beginning of November and again in early December. Each time, the web content added layers and became more interactive, just like the media coverage it chronicled.

“The Standing Rock web documentary is a culmination of months of hard work from photographers and writers, undergrads and graduates, Natives and non-Natives,” Stone said. “It hopes to answer one question: Did the media do its job in covering Standing Rock?”

Incorporating video, photo, an interactive timeline and multiple print story lines, the special report offers a multidimensional wealth of information.

The format is a first for Montana Journalism Review, a media magazine published annually by the UM School of Journalism.

Founded in 1958 by School of Journalism Dean Nathaniel Blumberg, MJR serves as a watchdog, scrutinizing western news organizations and informing the journalism community about local, national and global industry trends.

It is entirely produced by students, under the supervision of faculty members Keith Graham and Henriette Lowisch.

The special report is online at <https://features.mjr.jour.umt.edu/2016/11/27/framing-a-movement/>.

###

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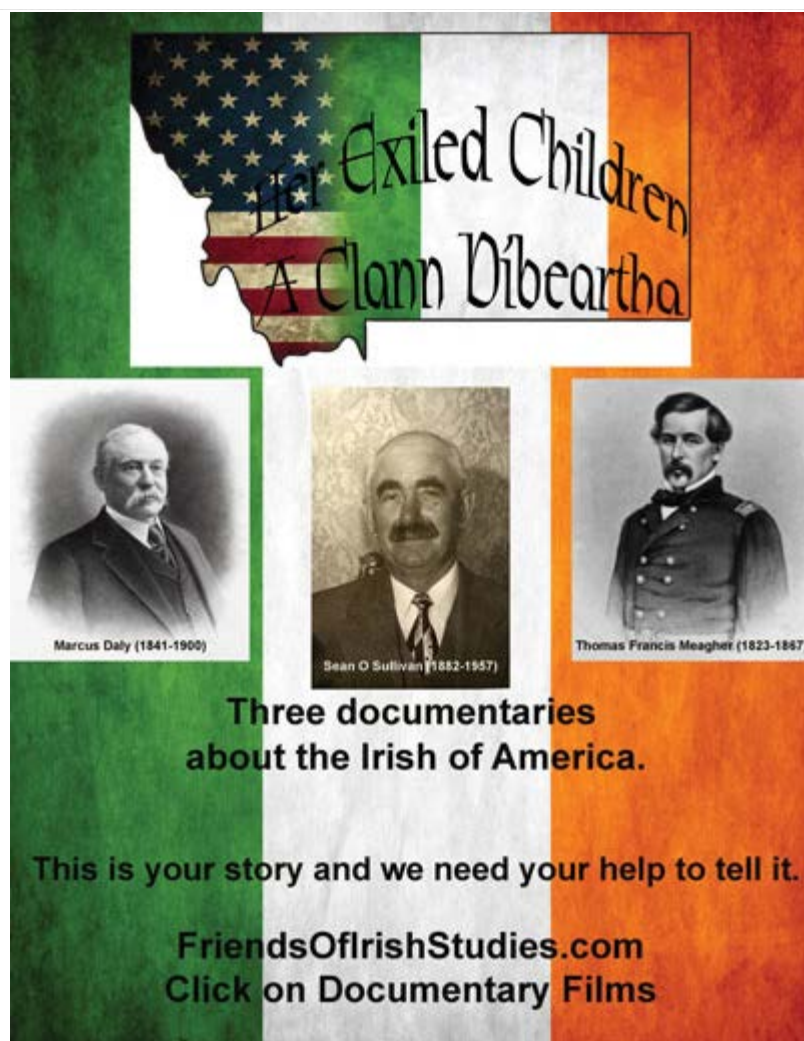
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Documentary Film Series to Tell Tales of the Irish in Montana

December 12, 2016

MISSOULA – The Friends of Irish Studies in the West, along with the Irish Studies program at the University of Montana, are in the initial stages of planning a series of documentary films called “Her Exiled Children (A Clann Díbeartha): The Irish of America and the Shaping of a New Ireland.”

According to the project’s [Indiegogo](#) site, the films are designed to tell the story of the Irish of Montana and America and how they helped change the course of Irish history. The first film’s subject, Thomas Francis Meagher, sought Irish independence. Other films will delve into the history of Marcus Daly, who sought



economic independence, and Sean O Sullivan and Seamus Moriarty, who fought to save the Irish culture. Through their lives, filmmakers will show the enduring love and commitment of Irish Americans to Ireland and its people.

“Our hope is that these films will not only record and share a history of the Irish in Montana but will focus nationwide attention on the rich Irish culture of this state, the unique Irish Studies program we have, and, in some small way, help to attract out-of-state students from the greater Irish American community,” said Traolach Ó Ríordáin, UM Irish Studies program director. “So we really have two objectives here: The first is to educate and to encourage the study of the history of the Irish in Montana, and the second is to promote the UM Irish Studies program.”

The first documentary examines the politics of the Irish and how Irish Americans influenced modern Ireland, focusing on Meagher. It is unlikely that there was any Irish American political leader whose life was more closely bound up with the fortunes of Ireland and America than that of Meagher's. Born in 1823 in Waterford, Ireland, into a prosperous Catholic family, Meagher did not settle for the life of comfort he could have enjoyed. Greatly troubled by British misrule in Ireland, which led to The Great Famine, he decided to dedicate his life to achieving Irish freedom.

He joined the radical Young Ireland movement, in which his considerable oratorical skills enchanted audiences and saw him rise to become one the best known nationalists of his time. He is remembered as the first to fly the Irish tricolor flag. He is also remembered for his role in the Young Ireland Rebellion, for which he was sentenced to death. This sentence was commuted to life in prison and deportation to the penal colony in Tasmania. Meagher then escaped to the United States, where he became the most celebrated Irish nationalist personality of his time. He was a newspaper editor, a lawyer and a public speaker. He joined the Union Army during the Civil War and rose to the rank of brigadier general.

Following the Civil War, Meagher headed west to Virginia City, where he became the acting governor of Montana Territory. When he arrived, Fenian organizations and Irish Nationalist groups greeted Meagher with enthusiasm. He

seemed to have found a constituency as passionate about Irish freedom as he was, but his time in Montana would be short. On July 1, 1867, Meagher disappeared under mysterious circumstances in Fort Benton.

Much has been written about the life of Meagher, but his story has never been told on film. This project is an effort to remedy this in a way that tells not just the biographical life of Meagher but argues that he played a founding role in the creation of a new cultural and political world: Irish America. This is the world that unites the United States and Ireland and enables those on this side of the Atlantic to shape the course of events in Ireland.

To get involved in the project or for more information, call Ó Ríordáin at 406-243-6359 or email traolach.oriordain@mso.umt.edu. Further details are also available at <http://hs.umt.edu/friends-irish-studies/>.

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UM Philanthropy Class Awards \$10,000 in Grants to Local Nonprofits

December 12, 2016

MISSOULA – A University of Montana class titled Can Giving Change the World? granted \$10,000 to local nonprofits and will hold a ceremony for them at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, in the Davidson Honors College Ephron Student Lounge.

The class, which is part of UM's Franke Global Leadership Initiative (GLI), awards grants to nonprofits that operate within Missoula County and address issues related to youth and mental health. Twenty-three Missoula nonprofit organizations submitted grant proposals to the class earlier this semester.

This semester's grantees are:

- **Red Willow Learning Center:** \$2,980 to fund Heroes Therapeutic Outreach Program
- **Youth Homes:** \$3,484 to support the Shirley Miller Attention Home
- **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA):** \$3,536 to fund Voices for Children

Can Giving Change the World? addresses social responsibility and community building through work in the nonprofit

sector. Students spent the semester learning about philanthropy's general influence in social improvement while also researching nonprofit work, specific community needs in Missoula County and doing a service learning project.

UM's civic engagement office and communication studies department secured the grant money for the class from the Learning by Giving Foundation.

"This project provided a new perspective on service, as we had the opportunity to interact with new organizations and learn about philanthropy in the Missoula community," Ciara Agrella, a student in the class, said. "Nonprofits in Missoula are addressing key issues vital for the future of Montana."

GLI is a four-year program open to UM students of all majors. Through the program students attend thought-provoking seminars, become involved in internships and community work, can study abroad affordably and learn skills necessary to be leaders in a global community.

For more information call Associate Director of Civic Engagement Colleen Kane at 406-243-5128 or email colleen.kane@umontana.edu.

###

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UM to Show Film in Remembrance of Newtown School Shooting

December 09, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will hold a free screening of the documentary “Newtown” at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, in the University Center Theater.

“Newtown” chronicles the aftermath of the deadliest mass shooting of schoolchildren in American history – a shooting that took the lives of 20 elementary schoolchildren and six educators in Newtown, Connecticut, on Dec. 14, 2012.

Called “powerful and illuminating” by The New York Times and selected for multiple film festivals, the documentary uses unique access and never-before-heard testimonies to tell a story of the aftermath of the Newtown school shooting. “Newtown” was filmed over nearly three years and documents a traumatized community fractured by grief and driven toward a sense of purpose. Joining the ranks of a growing club to which no one wants to belong, a cast of characters interconnect to weave an intimate story of community resilience.

A discussion will follow the screening with guest panelists Jim Caringi, associate professor in the UM School of Social Work; Chris Fiore, professor and chair in the UM Department of Psychology; Marty Ludemann, director of UM

Police; and Shaunagh McGoldrick, advocate coordinator and counsellor in the UM Student Advocacy Resource Center.

The event is sponsored by UM's Native American Center of Excellence and Annie Belcourt, UM associate professor in pharmacy practice.

###

Contact: Wilena Old Person, program coordinator, UM Native American Center of Excellence, 406-243-4097, wilena.oldperson@umontana.edu.



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Public Listening Session to be Held for UM President Search

December 08, 2016

MISSOULA – Montana University System Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian will host a series of listening sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 13-14, on the University of Montana campus. The public is invited to engage in discussions regarding the national search for the next UM President.

A public forum will be held at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday in University Center Rooms 330-333. A public reception will follow at 6:15 p.m. in the same location.

At any time, comments may be emailed to UMSearch@umontana.edu.

For more information visit <http://www.umt.edu/president/Presidential%20Search/listeningsessions.pdf>.

###

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Gianforte Family Foundation Supports Growth of UM Computer Science

December 08, 2016

MISSOULA – The Gianforte Family Foundation once again has shown its dedication to supporting education and job creation in Montana, pledging \$290,000 to the University of Montana's Department of Computer Science. The two-year gift will help the department grow its enrollment capacity, ultimately graduating more computer science majors and minors for careers in Montana's growing technology sector.

In Montana and nationwide, high-tech jobs go unfilled because there aren't enough graduates with computer science training. In addition, more and more careers use computing in their respective fields. To address this, UM's computer science department worked with the Gianforte Family Foundation to develop a plan to increase enrollment and grow course offerings by creating courses that show the relevance of computing in other disciplines. These new offerings allow for a cross-disciplinary computer science minor and provide students with a broader skillset for today's technological workplace.

The Gianforte Family Foundation's generous gift will underwrite two new lecturers, allowing the department to expand sections of its introductory computing classes and create a new foundational course, Interdisciplinary Computing. The department's goal is to double the number of computer science majors and minors during the next

five years.

“Computer science is a growing and needed field,” said Andrew Ware, professor and chair of the Department of Computer Science. “By building our department, we can help more students find high-paying jobs and fill a need in the state’s economy.”

“Computing is increasingly important across many academic disciplines and careers,” said Greg Gianforte, foundation board member. “We’re excited to work with the University of Montana to help expand cross-disciplinary computer science courses for all students on campus, and to help connect these students with good jobs in Montana.”

The first lecturer was hired over the summer and started teaching this fall. A second will join for the 2017-18 academic year. In addition to the lecturer positions, an existing professor will work with local businesses to develop internship opportunities and help students attain them.

This is the second recent gift from the Gianforte Family Foundation to support UM students. In 2015, the foundation began funding the Gianforte Manufacturing Scholarships, a statewide scholarship program for students studying welding, machining and diesel technology at two-year colleges across Montana, including Missoula College. There are few scholarships available in these fields, making them all the more significant for students.

“With this scholarship, it is more manageable for me to purchase higher-quality equipment for the welding program,” said Jamie Peck, a first-year student from **Bozeman**. “With better equipment, I can produce the welds needed for class much easier, faster and safer.”

This fall, 25 Missoula College students each received a \$1,000 scholarship, with the statewide total of Gianforte Manufacturing Scholarship recipients surpassing 300 since the program’s inception.

“Technical, skilled manufacturing is another field that provides great jobs and opportunities at Montana manufacturers,” Gianforte said. “We are thrilled to help Montanans receive the education they need to enter into this field and build bright, solid futures for their families.”

The Gianforte Family Foundation works to support organizations that equip others with the means to improve their lives and create lasting change. Since its creation, the foundation has given over \$43.5 million to projects primarily in Montana, as well as projects in the greater United States and economically developing nations.

###

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UM Dining to Host 19th Annual Christmas Cookie Cook-Off

December 07, 2016

MISSOULA – University of Montana students, faculty, staff and their families are invited to join UM Dining for some tasty and charitable holiday fun at the 19th annual Great UM Christmas Cookie Cook-Off.

This year's event, themed "A Charlie Brown Christmas," will be held from 2 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20, in the Lommasson Center's Food Zoo dining room. Guests may bring home up to half the cookies they bake, and the remainder will be donated to local youth homes, senior homes, group shelters and other nonprofit organizations.

Event sponsor Sysco Food Service of Montana will donate about 800 pounds of cookie dough ingredients and decorations this year. Participants only need to bring their holiday spirit.

Every year, more than 30 campus departments participate in this event and donate about 300 dozen cookies to 16 local charities. In addition to making cookies, the event features beverages, music and a children's play area.

For more information call Sam Belanger, UM Dining director of marketing, at 406-243-5089 or email samuel.belanger@mso.umt.edu.

###

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Tickets Available for Award-Winning Musical ‘Annie’ at UM

December 06, 2016

MISSOULA – Tickets now are available for the hit musical “Annie,” which will take the stage Feb. 1, 2017, at the University of Montana Adams Center during its third U.S. National Tour.

Directed by original lyricist and director Martin Charnin for the 19th time, this production of Annie is a brand-new incarnation of the iconic Tony Award-winning original, which opened in April 1977 at the Alvin Theatre in New York.

The show won the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, seven Drama Desk Awards, including Best Musical, the Grammy for Best Cast Show Album and seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Book and Best Score. It remains one of the biggest Broadway musical hits ever, running for 2,377 performances after its opening and in 28 languages worldwide for nearly four decades.

The national tour production features a 25-member company. Making her tour debut in the title role of Annie is Tori Bates, an 11-year-old actress from Sarasota, Florida, who recently starred as young Josephine in the sold-out production of “Josephine” at Asolo Repertory Theatre in Florida.

The beloved score for Annie includes “Maybe,” “It’s the Hard Knock Life,” “You’re Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile,” “Easy Street,” “I Don’t Need Anything But You” and the eternal anthem of optimism, “Tomorrow.” The choreography, by Liza Gennaro, incorporates selections from Peter Gennaro’s 1977 Tony Award-winning choreography.

The celebrated design team includes scenic design by Tony Award winner Beowulf Boritt, costume design by Costume Designer’s Guild Award winner Suzy Benzinger, lighting design by Tony Award winner Ken Billington and sound design by Tony Award nominee Peter Hylenski. Lovable mutt “Sandy” is once again trained by Tony Award honoree William Berloni, and the tour is produced by Troika Entertainment.

To purchase tickets visit <http://www.umt.edu/griztix/> or call 888-MONTANA. For more information on the production, visit <http://missoulaliveshows.com/>.

###

Contact: Mike Morelli, interim director, UM Adams Center, 406-243-4261, mike.morelli@mso.umt.edu; Rebecca Brait, event and marketing coordinator, innovation Arts and Entertainment, 312-274-1800 ext. 232, rebecca@innovationae.com.



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UM Earns National Recognition for Service to Veteran Students

December 12, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana recently received two honors from a national organization that measures institutions based on the best practices in military and veteran supportive education.

On Dec. 8 the Military Friendly organization announced that UM has earned a Silver award in the Large Public School category for offering outstanding programs and support to student veterans and their families. Military Friendly rates companies and colleges on their programs to recruit and retain military veterans as employees and students.

In November, the same organization named UM to their list of 2017 Military Friendly Schools. For the 2017 school rankings, Military Friendly increased its ranking criteria to compare graduation rates, retention rates, loan default rates and job placement rates between veterans and the general student population. View the full 2017 rankings at <https://militaryfriendly.com/schools/>.

“At UM we have a special appreciation for our students who have served in the armed forces,” said UM President Royce Engstrom. “We are committed to helping veterans succeed during their time as students here. These

rankings recognize that commitment.”

“UM has made a concerted effort to improve services for our veterans and their beneficiaries over the past several years,” said Shawn Grove, director of UM’s Veterans Education and Transition Office. “The great support our students receive would not be possible without the collaboration of many at UM.”

In addition to the Military Friendly honors, UM recently received other accolades recognizing the University’s commitment to veterans. This past summer, the VA conducted its annual compliance audit at UM and found zero discrepancies for the third year in a row. In February 2015, UM was officially designated a Purple Heart University – recognition that places it among a handful of select universities in the country to receive the honor. UM remains the only Purple Heart University in the Northwest.

To learn more about the services that UM’s VETS Office provides, call 406-243-2744 or visit <http://www.umt.edu/veterans/>.

###

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UM Named One of America's 100 Best College Buys

December 06, 2016

MISSOULA – The University of Montana recently was named one of America's 100 Best College Buys for its combination of high quality and low cost.

The ranking was compiled by Institutional Research & Evaluation Inc., an independent research and consulting organization based in Rome, Georgia, that specializes in recruiting and retaining students.

"Frankly, we are not surprised to be on this list," said Thomas Crady, UM vice president for enrollment and student affairs. "We offer our students high-quality education, campus life and community – and all at a very reasonable price for families."

The ranking organization conducted its 26th annual National College Survey between April 1 and July 31. The survey was submitted to 1,461 accredited U.S. colleges and universities offering four-year undergraduate degree programs that provide facilities for both room and board. Of the institutions surveyed, 1,123 schools responded.

UM was lauded for its 2016-17 in-state tuition of \$14,943 and out-of-state tuition of \$28,456. Those costs were

lower than the other in-state institutions that made the list, Montana State University and Montana Tech.

Of the 100 institutions listed, UM had the seventh-lowest in-state tuition. For more information visit <https://100bestcollegebuys.com/>.

###

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UM Student Entrepreneurs Warm Up at EPIC Pitch Competition

December 05, 2016

MISSOULA – The [Blackstone LaunchPad at University of Montana](#) and the [Montana Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs](#) will host its annual fall startup pitch competition, now called the EPIC Pitch Competition, from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, in UM's Gilkey Building.

The goal of the competition is to encourage innovative and creative thinking as well as prepare students for the John Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge, held annually at UM near the end of spring semester. At EPIC, teams present early-stage ideas for new businesses or social entrepreneurship ventures.

Eight finalists will be selected from a pool of applicants and the competition will award four cash prizes totaling \$3,000. The winner of the EPIC Pitch Competition also earns automatic entry into the Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge.

The EPIC Pitch Competition is open to the public. Tickets to attend the event can be reserved online for free at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/epic-pitch-competition-tickets-29308791384>.

The law firm Michael Best donated \$2,500 in prize money for this year's EPIC Pitch Competition. Michael Best is a leading law firm with more than 220 attorneys in offices located in Wisconsin, Chicago, Missoula, Utah, Washington, D.C., and Texas.

Last year UM computer science graduate student Evin Oser took home \$1,500 as winner of the EPIC Pitch Competition. Oser, who was a partial owner of Montana Root Applications, pitched a smartphone application, [SolarScreen](#), which detects sun intensity through a phone's geolocation. It warns a user if UV rays are too high for their personal profile and reminds them when to reapply sunscreen. SolarScreen went on to compete in the spring 2016 John Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge. It is currently available for download on Google Play for Android and the Apple App Store for iOS.

Blackstone LaunchPad at UM is designed to introduce entrepreneurship as a viable career path and develop entrepreneurial skills and mindsets through individualized coaching, ideation and venture creation support. Developed as part of the Blackstone Charitable Foundation's Entrepreneurship Initiative, the program is currently available to over 350,000 students on 15 campuses in six regions across the country. More information about the Blackstone LaunchPad is available at <http://www.umt.edu/launchpad/>.

MADE, a program of the School of Business Administration at UM, promotes and projects the spirit of entrepreneurship to all UM students and Montana entrepreneurs through educational opportunities and special events. Membership is comprised of entrepreneurs and individuals with experience of working with and advising entrepreneurs, such as angel investors, bankers, attorneys, and SoBA faculty. More information about MADE is available at <http://www.business.umt.edu/DegreesPrograms/MADE.aspx>.

###

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'Backroads of Montana' Anniversary Special to Air Monday on MontanaPBS

December 02, 2016

MISSOULA – The popular MontanaPBS series “Backroads of Montana” will celebrate its silver anniversary with the special presentation “Why We Love Backroads: Fans Celebrate 25 Years,” airing at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5, on MontanaPBS.

The anniversary special was recorded Nov. 17 at the restored Rialto Theatre in **Deer Lodge** in front of an audience of friends and fans.

People will learn how the television program has made a difference for viewers from around Montana through special anniversary clips.

“We know we’ve touched a lot of lives with our



program,” said William Marcus, “Backroads of Montana” host. “We’re hoping viewers and friends of the program will join us to celebrate 25 years of stories.”

An encore presentation is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10. MontanaPBS (KUFM-TV in Missoula, KUSM-TV in Bozeman, KUKL-TV in Kalispell, KBGS-TV in Billings, KUGF-TV in Great Falls and KUHM-TV in Helena) is a service of the University of Montana and Montana State University.

For more information visit <http://mtpr.org/> or <http://www.montanapbs.org/>.

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Contact: Ray Ekness, director, UM Broadcast Media Center, 406-243-4154, ray.ekness@umontana.edu.



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President Engstrom to Step Down Dec. 31

December 01, 2016

Statement by Clayton T. Christian Commissioner of Higher Education

After careful discussion and consideration, University of Montana President Royce Engstrom and I have decided that he will step down as UM's President effective December 31. I asked President Engstrom to consider this transition at this time based on my belief that a change in leadership direction is the right step for UM going forward. I greatly appreciate the graciousness and care with which President Engstrom engaged in our discussion.

On behalf of the Board of Regents and myself, I want to thank President Engstrom for his hard work and steadfast dedication to the University of Montana. His leadership efforts have strengthened this great university in many respects. He and his administrative team, working together with UM's tremendous faculty, staff and students, have accomplished a lot for which all are to be commended:

- The productivity of UM's competitive research enterprise this year is at an all-time high, with world-class faculty making amazing scientific and technological discoveries and advancements.
- UM's development and nurturing of private gift support is at an all-time high, which is vital to continued excellence and innovation in the university's teaching-and-learning opportunities.
- UM's athletic programs today are recognized not only for their success on the court or field of play, or their

rising academic excellence by student athletes, but also for their strong compliance with NCAA regulations and guidelines.

- The new Missoula College is no longer just a dream or a long overdue project, but it is now a reality and is ready to serve generations of students and employers long into the future.
- Finally, after major policy and procedure reforms launched by President Engstrom very early in his presidency, UM is now a model campus for thousands of colleges and universities across the nation for preventing sexual violence and providing a safe, healthy, enriching environment in which to teach, learn, and live.

I speak for the Montana University System in extending deep gratitude to President and Mary Engstrom for their unwavering devotion these past six years to serving UM students, staff, faculty, all campus personnel, alumni and supporters, the greater UM community, and the state of Montana.

Transition plan for the remainder of the academic year and going forward:

1. New Leadership

A national search for the next UM president will begin immediately. My office will assist UM in assembling a search committee with a diversity of campus and community representation before the start of spring semester. We will enlist the help of a national search consultant to ensure the search committee is prepared and supported in its task of vetting candidates and bringing finalists to campus for public interviews in the spring. We anticipate the next president will be selected by the end of the current academic year and ready to start in the job by July 1.

2. Interim Leadership

Dr. Sheila M. Stearns will serve as interim president starting January 1 continuing until the national search is completed. Stearns is an accomplished and effective educational leader with strong ties to UM and Montana. She has served in past capacities as UM's Alumni Association Director and Vice President for University Relations. Stearns has also served as Chancellor of UM Western, President of Wayne State College in Nebraska, and as Montana's Commissioner of Higher Education. Stearns is an active senior consultant for the national Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges.

3. Listening Efforts and Outreach

As soon as possible, perhaps even before the search committee is assembled, a number of on-campus listening sessions will be scheduled for members of the university community and the public to participate in this process. It will be important to the search committee, to me, and to the process to have members of the UM community and public tell us the kinds of qualities or characteristics people would like to see in the next university president. These listening sessions will help inform the search process for the selection of finalists to bring to campus for public interviews in the spring. We assure students, faculty, and the campus community that this process will be inclusive and comprehensive.

4. Short-term System Support of UM in Transition

My office will assist UM with transition support and planning in every way possible. Assistance may include fiscal help with presidential search costs, staff support with institutional financial assessments, planning and estimating budget, enrollment, and tuition scenarios. I will relieve the interim president of the administrative duty of supervising

the chancellors of Montana Tech, UM Western, and the Dean of Helena College. In the interim, I will supervise those administrative officers so the interim president and UM can focus on best situating UM-Missoula for a successful transition and continued excellence.

5. Mid- to long-term System Support of UM

The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Board of Regents are committed to continual improvement of the educational and governance framework across the Montana University System. This shall include analysis of institutional mission differentiation that supports and enhances UM's strengths and growth opportunities. My office, on behalf of the Board, will work with UM to develop a cohesive financing plan with stronger alignment of state appropriations, tuition, and student aid. This will provide long-term structural balance and stability for institutional finances.

Contact: .



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UM Family Medicine Residency Program Sees Record Number of Applicants

December 01, 2016

MISSOULA – With more than 800 medical student applications, the University of Montana's Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana will interview a record number of applicants this season.

Over 80 applicants for the seven Missoula positions and more than 40 for the three Kalispell slots will undergo an intensive interview process with current residents and faculty. FMRWM especially focuses on identifying and training applicants who are interested in serving rural and underserved patient populations.

"We really enjoy being a part of the recruitment and interviewing process," said resident Emma Wright. "It gives us an opportunity to meet potential residents and promote our program, serving as a reminder the excellence of our program."

Interviews began in October and extend through early January. Interviewees are ranked and matched through the National Resident Matching Program, which provides an objective and fair process for matching applicants and residency programs. Notification of the match results will take place mid-March 2017, with a new class starting at the end of June 2017.

“Our pool of applicants has again strengthened this year as FMRWM has established a strong reputation,” said Ned Vasquez, program director. “We are interviewing medical students from schools throughout the United States, and the quality of candidates has continued to increase. We should be well-positioned for another strong match in March.”

FMRWM welcomed its first class of 10 family medicine residents in July 2013, and the inaugural class graduated at the end of June 2016. The creation of the residency program more than doubled the number of family medicine physicians trained in Montana each year.

With a mission to train physicians for rural and underserved areas in Montana, the program is expected to have a significant impact on the state’s shortage of primary care doctors in rural communities. Of the first class, seven of the 10 graduates are employed in rural and underserved areas, and six of the seven are practicing in western Montana.

Headquartered in Missoula, FMRWM is sponsored by UM and affiliated with the University of Washington Family Medicine Residency Network. The program is dually accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and the American Osteopathic Association.

FMRWM’s three sponsoring hospitals in western Montana include Kalispell Regional Healthcare, and Providence St. Patrick Hospital and Community Medical Center in Missoula. Residents are involved in clinic training at Partnership Health Center in Missoula and Flathead Community Health Center in Kalispell.

Additionally, the program works with an extensive rural training network of nine sites, including Blackfeet Community Hospital in Browning, Northwest Community Health Center in Libby, Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Polson, Clark Fork Valley Hospital in Plains, St. Luke Community Healthcare in Ronan, Community Physicians Group in Stevensville, Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital in Hamilton, Community Hospital of Anaconda and Barrett Hospital and Healthcare in Dillon.

For more information on FMRWM, visit <http://health.umt.edu/fmrwm/>.

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